

Nominate a Heritage Asset

The Chester Arms, Chester Street



1. WHAT IS IT? Is it one of the following?	Tick
a building or group of buildings	y
a monument or site (an area of archaeological remains or a structure other than a building)	
a place (e.g. a street, park, garden or natural space)	y
a landscape (an area defined by visual features or character, e.g. a city centre, village, suburb or field system)	
2. WHY IS IT INTERESTING? Is it interesting in any of the following ways?	Tick / Rank
Historic interest – a well documented association with a person, event, episode of history, or local industry	y
Archaeological interest – firm evidence of potential to reveal more about the human past through further study	
Architectural interest – an example of an architectural style, a building of particular use, a technique of building, or use of materials	y
Artistic interest – It includes artistic endeavour to communicate meaning or use of design (including landscape design) to enhance appearance	
What is it about the asset that provides this interest?	
<p>Historic interest: The Chester Arms was built as part of the development of houses on both sides of Chester Street, which formed the first phase of the development of Iffley Fields area in the 1890s. It has remained a public house to the present.</p> <p>Architectural interest: This is a relatively simple late 19th century public house building with a double frontage to Chester Street, built in yellow brick with red brick detailing to windows and quoins and preserving vertical sliding sash windows. The centrally positioned door has an attractive decorative doorcase, whilst the ground floor windows are divided by large stone mullions with matching heavy stone lintels.</p>	
3. WHY IS IT LOCALLY VALUED? Is the interest of the asset valued locally	Tick / Rank

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for any of the following reasons?	
Association: It connects us to people and events that shaped the identity or character of the area	
Illustration: It illustrates an aspect of the area's past that makes an important contribution to its identity or character	y
Evidence: It is an important resource for understanding and learning about the area's history	
Aesthetics: It makes an important contribution to the positive look of the area either by design or fortuitously	y
Communal: It is important to the identity, cohesion, spiritual life or memory of all or part of the community	y
How is the asset locally valued as heritage?	
<p>Illustration: The pub's integration with the planned street illustrates the intention to develop an area with its own facilities in the late 19th century (other buildings included shops and a bake house). This reflects the status of the early stages of development of Iffley Fields as an area of working class housing, although this changed to more upmarket middle class houses as the development progressed in the Edwardian period. Its design and materials reflect the late Victorian date of construction and a notable for being simpler than the more elaborate Edwardian houses that were built in the area subsequently</p> <p>Aesthetics: The building's design is complementary to the design of Chester Street as a whole but is clearly differentiated as a building with a different purpose by the large front doors and position directly at the edge of the pavements, as well as the large double frontage. It also forms the corner to Argyle Street, and as such, occupies a prominent position in the street scene.</p> <p>Aesthetics: The large garden at the rear (subdivided for development in 2014) provides considerable greenery that is appreciated as an attractive addition to the streetscene, including a large Beech tree that is protected by a Tree Preservation Order.</p> <p>Communal: The pub was designed to provide a social focus for the new community a role that it continues to provide</p>	

4. WHAT MAKES ITS LOCAL SIGNIFICANCE SPECIAL? Do any of the following features make the heritage significance of the asset stand out above the surrounding environment?	Tick
Age ... Is it particularly old, or of a date that is significant to the local area?	y
Rarity ... Is it unusual in the area or a rare survival of something that was once common?	
Integrity ... Is it largely complete or in a near to original condition?	y
Group value ... Is it part of a group that have a close historic, aesthetic or communal association?	y
Oxford's identity ... Is it important to the identity or character of the city or a particular part of it?	y
Other ... Is there another way you think it has special local value?	
How does this contribute to its value?	
<p>Age and Integrity: The building was one of the first constructed on Chester Street and in the Iffley Fields Neighbourhood as a whole and has preserved much its external appearance.</p> <p>Group value and Oxford's identity: This is one of a number of public houses set across the East Oxford suburb and reflects the need for social venues and entertainment if the working class community who settled in this area. The building was built as an integral part of the street to provide one of the range of services it was anticipated its residents would need. Despite the later upgrading of Iffley Fields through building of larger houses in the early 1900s, it appears to have remained successful and continues to be appreciated by the local community. As such it contributes to the wider character of the East Oxford Suburb.</p>	